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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/854,824	05/14/2001	Kristin J. Godbey	56466US002	9149
32692 7590 06/18/2009 3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY PO BOX 33427 ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427				
EXAMINER AHMED, HASAN SYED				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1615				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
06/18/2009		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/854,824

Applicant(s)

GODBEY ET AL.

Examiner

HASAN S. AHMED

Art Unit

1615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 May 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

- Receipt is acknowledged of applicants' RCE and remarks, filed on 19 May 2009.
- Applicants' arguments filed on 19 May 2009 have been considered and are partially persuasive, as such, the 35 USC 102 rejection of the previous Office action is hereby withdrawn.

* * * * *

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicants' submission filed on 19 May 2009 has been entered.

* * * * *

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-5 and 7-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,780,047 ("Kamiya") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,855,142 ("Fankhauser").

Kamiya discloses a device for delivering at least one active agent to a localized body surface (*see* col. 1, lines 4-12) comprising:

- the cold water-soluble carrier of instant claim 1 (*see* col. 2, lines 14-49);
- the cold water-soluble adhesive of instant claim 1 (*see* col. 4, line 36);
- the support layer of instant claim 1 (*see* col. 10, line 44);
- the nonwoven fabric of instant claim 2 (*see* col. 6, line 2);
- the monomers of instant claim 3 (*see* col. 4, line 12);
- the polyvinyl alcohol of instant claim 4 (*see* col. 3, lines 7-8);
- the gelatin of instant claim 5 (*see* col. 4, line 41);
- the alkyl ether ethoxylate (phenylethyl alcohol) of instant claim 8 (*see* col. 7, line 35);
- the pressure sensitive adhesive of instant claim 10 (*see* col. 10, lines 30-43);
- the cold water-soluble polymer of instant claim 11 (*see* col. 3, lines 7-8);
- the plasticizer (sorbitol) of instant claim 11 (*see* col. 5, line 11);
- the water-soluble monomer of instant claim 12 (*see* col. 4, line 12);
- the polysaccharide of instant claim 13 (*see* col. 3, line 24);
- the polymeric film of instant claim 14 (*see* col. 5, line 40);
- the cold water-soluble carrier of instant claim 15 (*see* col. 2, lines 14-49);
- the cold water-soluble adhesive of instant claim 15 (*see* col. 4, line 36);
- the support layer of instant claim 15 (*see* col. 10, line 44);
- the active agent effective for treatment of skin of instant claim 16 (*see* col. 1, line 7);

- the dye of instant claim 17 (*see* col. 7, line 54);
- the sodium monophosphate (sodium phosphate) of instant claim 18 (*see* col. 7, line 7);
- the appliqué (pigment) of instant claim 19 (*see* claim 11);
- the perfume of instant claim 20 (*see* claim 11);
- the deodorant (perfume) of instant claim 21 (*see* claim 11);
- the drug of instant claims 22, 23, and 25 (*see* col. 7, line 16);
- the nonwoven fabric of instant claim 29 (*see* col. 6, line 2);
- the monomers of instant claim 30 (*see* col. 4, line 12);
- the polyvinyl alcohol of instant claim 31 (*see* col. 3, lines 7-8);
- the monohydric alcohol (phenylethyl alcohol) of instant claim 32 (*see* col. 7, line 35);
- the alkyl ether ethoxylate (phenylethyl alcohol) of instant claim 33 (*see* col. 7, line 35);
- the pressure sensitive adhesive of instant claim 35 (*see* col. 10, lines 30-43);
- the cold water-soluble polymer of instant claim 36 (*see* col. 3, lines 7-8);
- the plasticizer (sorbitol) of instant claim 36 (*see* col. 5, line 11);
- the water-soluble monomer of instant claim 37 (*see* col. 4, line 12);
- the polysaccharide of instant claim 38 (*see* col. 3, line 24);
- the polymeric film of instant claim 39 (*see* col. 5, line 40).

The coating, dissolving, suspending, and emulsifying processes of claims 24, 25, 27, and 28 are not essential to a determination of patentability of the system disclosed

in the claim. The patentability of product-by-process claims is based on the product itself. "[E]ven though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." In re Thorpe, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

Kamiya explains that the disclosed device is beneficial because it, "...can exert excellent effects of relieving topical symptoms of a human body." See col. 2, lines 15-16.

Kamiya differs from the instant application in that it does not teach a carrier comprising a plasticizer.

Fankhauser teaches a pharmaceutical plaster consisting of two discrete layers comprising (a) a cover film and (b) an adhesive layer (see col. 2, lines 5-8). The cover film (reading on the carrier of instant claims 1 and 15) consists of a polyvinyl alcohol (reading on the polymer of instant claims 1 and 15) and a plasticizer (see col. 2, lines 9-12). The plasticizer may be glycerin (see Example 1, col. 6, line 53).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to disclose a device for delivering at least one active agent to a localized body surface comprising a cold water-soluble carrier (further comprising a polymer and a plasticizer), a cold water soluble adhesive, and a support layer, as taught by Kamiya in view of Fankhauser. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made would have been motivated to make such a device because it can relieve topical symptoms of a human body, as explained by Kamiya (see above).

*

2. Claims 1 and 6 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,780,047 ("Kamiya") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,028,435 ("Katz").

Kamiya teaches a device for delivering at least one active agent to a localized body surface (see above).

Kamiya explains that the disclosed device is beneficial because it, "...can exert excellent effects of relieving topical symptoms of a human body." See col. 2, lines 15-16.

The Kamiya reference differs from the instant case in that it does not teach the arabinogalactan of instant claim 6.

Katz, et. al. teach use of a protein and a carbohydrate in a transdermal system.

Katz, et. al. disclose a transdermal delivery system comprising a backing having a matrix layer which incorporates a drug and a percutaneous enhancer for the drug. At least one of the drug and enhancer is contained within a plurality of polymeric particles dispersed throughout the matrix layer (see col. 3, lines 58-62). The particles may be formed using natural polymers such as arabinogalactan (see col. 7, lines 28-32).

Katz, et. al. explain that polymers such as arabinogalactan and gelatin are useful because they contribute to the stability of the transdermal drug delivery device, as well as to a long shelf life for the device (see col. 7, lines 14-19).

Thus, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add a protein, such as collagen, and a carbohydrate, such as arabinogalactan to a transdermal delivery device, as taught by Kamiya in view of Katz, et. al. Motivation to do so, as explained above, would come from increased stability and longer self life of the device.

* * * * *

Response to Arguments

Applicants' argument I(A)(1) the filed on 19 May 2009 has been fully considered but it is not persuasive. The other arguments are moot in view of the new ground of rejection

Applicants argue that Kamiya does not disclose a device in which a support layer is attached to a carrier on the surface opposite the adhesive layer, i.e. a construction of 1) support layer, 2) carrier, and 3) adhesive. See remarks, page 9.

In response to applicants' argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., support layer attached to a carrier on the surface opposite the adhesive layer) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

In the remarks, applicants suggest that the support layer, carrier, and adhesive are structured as three distinct layers by numbering each element 1, 2, and 3. However claim 1 is not clear as to the structural features of the device being claimed. The only

"layer" being claimed is the support layer. The carrier, given the broadest reasonable interpretation, may be read as a composition with no particular morphology, other than to have at least two surfaces. Similarly, the adhesive may be read as a composition which contacts an undefined portion of the first surface of the carrier composition, while another portion of the surface of the adhesive composition does not contact the carrier. The claim, as currently constructed does not require the entire support layer to be opposite the entire adhesive layer. If only a portion of the adhesive layer does not contact the support layer, the language of claim 1 is satisfied. As such, examiner respectfully submits that the Kamiya reference reads on the instant application as currently constructed.

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Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HASAN S. AHMED whose telephone number is (571)272-4792. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael P. Woodward can be reached on (571)272-8373. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1615

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/H. S. A./
Examiner, Art Unit 1615

/Humera N. Sheikh/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1615